



NEWS FROM TCA: NOVEMBER 2024

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As summer finally rides off into the sunset, we're taking one last fond look at how our 15 current Young Masters spent their summers furthering their skills in their art forms-- scroll down to share in our pride for that program. This photo highlights our pride in the Cultural Districts Designation program, with an image from the Downtown Conroe Cultural District.

East Texas Grants Workshop

Join us in Nacogdoches to learn more about how you and your community can apply for grants and services from Humanities Texas and the Texas Commission on the Arts in this free workshop! Representatives from both agencies will be on hand to discuss their programs and how they can benefit your work.

This event is ideal for representatives of nonprofit organizations and units of government, including schools and

EAST TEXAS GRANTS WORKSHOP

Speakers from



Texas Commission on the Arts



Humanities Texas

Stephen F. Austin State University

November 19 1-4 pm

REGISTER NOW

libraries.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 19 from 1 to 4 PM, at the Wright Music Building, Music Recital Hall, Room 160, at Stephen F. Austin State University.

[Register](#) in advance to reserve your spot space is limited.

Support Texas Arts with the *State of the Arts* License Plate



Holiday shopping on your to do list? TCA's chic black and silver *State of the Arts* minimalist design license plate is shipping and is available to order at

<https://www.myplates.com/go/arts>.

This plate design can go on a passenger car, motorcycle, trailer, or private bus (attention, Texas bands!).

TCA will receive a portion of the sales of the plate. Note that this plate is part of MyPlates' "Lone Star Series," but only the *State of the Arts* plate supports TCA. There is a price break for those ordering their plate for multiple years. Make a long term commitment to the arts!

TCA Speaker Series: Explore the Power of Fundraising Boards; Upcoming Listening Sessions

On October 9, TCA held an online convening titled **Explore the Power of Fundraising Boards**. Our speakers discussed the art of developing a fundraising board, what makes them different from working boards, and what considerations will help you take on this important work. We were proud to present such insightful speakers to share their wisdom. If you weren't able to join the live event, a recording of it is available [here](#).

Thanks again to our speakers for this session: **Luis Purón**, Executive Director of the Rockport Center for the Arts, and **Cookie Gregory Ruiz**, Executive Director of Ballet Austin.



LISTENING SESSIONS

12/10/24 11 AM CST 12/12/24 2 PM CST

Join us online

TCA selected this topic using feedback from constituents, and we expect that future convenings in this series will address other needs expressed by members of the Texas

arts field.

On that note, for our last Speaker Series installments of the year, TCA will be holding **online listening sessions**. The free listening sessions will be conducted on Zoom and are an opportunity for TCA to learn more about you and your recent successes, challenges, and needs. Through your participation, you can help TCA assess the needs of our field, and guide the next year's slate of TCA Speaker Series events. TCA is holding two sessions to accommodate greater interest. Each session will follow the same agenda.

The sessions will be held on **Tuesday, December 10 at 11 AM Central** (register [here](#)) and **Thursday, December 12 at 2 PM Central** (register [here](#)).

Note that registration does not guarantee a spot in this event, as spaces are limited. Be quick to join us on the day of to experience this conversation in real time!

Apply to Be a TCA Grant Evaluator

Each year, TCA invites roughly 200 Texans to serve as peer reviewers of the grant applications we receive. We are grateful to these members of our arts field who donate their time and knowledge to our panel review process and assess the quality of grant applications. The peer review process is central to the Commission's efforts to maintain an accountable, accessible awards system for the State of Texas.

If you would like insight into the grant evaluation process, we invite you to nominate yourself to serve on a panel. TCA is not able to pay for this work, but it will allow you to gain experience as a grant evaluator, see how other organizations present their programs and challenges, and ensure that TCA grant decisions can be made—we really can't do this without you. Nominations are accepted year round and can be made [here](#).

Panels can be held online or in person in Austin. TCA reimburses for travel and hotel costs for in person meetings. For online panels, TCA assigns reviewers no more than 25 grant applications to help keep the workload reasonable. **Evaluators can also be grant applicants**—TCA excludes evaluators from reviewing and scoring an application that they submitted or have any other conflict of interest with.

Texas Young Masters Shine in Summer Training Programs

This summer, Texas [Young Masters](#) embarked on remarkable journeys to hone their talents and deepen their artistic craft at some of the most prestigious training programs across the country and beyond. These exceptional young artists have demonstrated immense dedication to their chosen disciplines, pursuing intensive training that has helped them grow as performers, creators, and leaders in the arts.

In dance, **Adeline Dunlap** from Allen trained at the Dutch National Ballet Academy Summer Intensive in Amsterdam, a highly selective program that attracts top young dancers from around the world. Adeline refined her classical ballet technique under the guidance of world renowned instructors and gained valuable international performance experience. **Beth Anne McGowan** from Dallas sharpened her technique at two esteemed programs: the Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive in New York, known for its rigorous ballet and contemporary dance training, and the Arts Umbrella Summer Dance Intensive in Vancouver, Canada, a program celebrated for its contemporary focus and mentorship from leading choreographers.



Gisele Elise Wilson, also from Dallas, split her summer between the European School of Ballet in Amsterdam, where she expanded her classical ballet technique, and the Southland Academy of Ballet Summer Institute in Texas, known for its emphasis on precision and artistry in ballet training. **Gracelyn Weber** from Savannah took part in the Perry Mansfield Pre Professional Intensive in Colorado, a multidisciplinary arts program that fosters creativity and technique in young dancers, actors, and musicians. **Hudson Pletcher** from Frisco was accepted into the highly competitive Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive, where he trained in a variety of dance styles, further developing his skills for a professional career.

Theater artist **Adrianna Rodriguez** from Harlingen participated in the prestigious Circle in the Square Summer Intensive in New York City. Located on Broadway, this program offers a unique opportunity to study acting, singing, and movement at one of the few professional theater schools in the heart of the theater district. Adrianna worked with seasoned Broadway actors and directors, gaining exposure to the industry's highest standards. **Madelynn Mircelle Gonzalez** from Brownsville trained at the Stella Adler Teen Summer Conservatory & Musical Theatre Workshop, also in New York, where she deepened her acting skills under the method based approach developed by Stella Adler, a legendary acting teacher whose methods are embraced by many of the world's greatest performers. Madelynn also explored her musical theater talents in a specialized workshop that prepared her for professional level performances.

Musical theater Young Master **Valeria Velasco** from San Antonio attended the Institute for American Musical Theatre Summer Intensive Program in New York. This program offers intensive training in singing, acting, and dancing, equipping young performers with the skills necessary for the demands of the Broadway stage. **Nevaeha Wilson** from Keene expanded her talents in musical theater by attending two outstanding programs: the iTheatrics Summer Academy in New York, a leading academy for young musical theater performers, and the Theatre Under the Stars All State Summer Program in Houston, which prepared her for high level performance in

musical theater through focused training in acting, singing, and dance.

As for our music focused Young Masters, **Aureus Morel** from Cedar Hill attended the Boston Conservatory at Berklee High School Composition Initiative, an intensive program that focuses on helping young composers develop their unique voices through rigorous training, collaboration with peers, and mentorship from leading composers. This experience allowed Aureus to work in Boston's vibrant artistic community, gaining feedback on original compositions. **Caroline Jacobson** from Spring pursued vocal excellence at multiple programs, including the Sam Houston State University All State Choir Camp, where she prepared for the Texas All State Choir auditions. She participated in two programs offered by Schmidt Vocal Arts: their Institute, a premier training program for young classical singers, and their National Competition & Master Classes, where she participated in masterclasses with world renowned vocal coaches and competed with top vocalists across the country.

Pianist **Lerchen Zhong** from Austin attended the Vivace Music Foundation 2024 Piano Program in Texas, a prestigious program designed for highly skilled young pianists. There, he worked closely with acclaimed faculty, focusing on technique, interpretation, and performance. **Matthew Scott** from Lewisville trained at the Oberlin Conservatory Piano Festival, an intensive summer program for young pianists held at one of the nation's top music conservatories, where he refined his technique under distinguished faculty. He also participated in the Jonathan Cziner Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Composition Seminar, receiving private lessons in composition and piano from Gabriel Sanchez, further developing his dual passion for performance and composition.

Houston literary artist **Eva Rami** explored creative writing at Barnard College's NextGen Leadership Institute in New York. This program empowers young writers, providing them with the tools to develop their voices while engaging with a community of peers and mentors. Eva participated in workshops that enhanced her storytelling abilities and prepared her for leadership roles in creative fields.

Finally, visual artist **Saj Baldwin** from Houston participated in a specialized printmaking program at the Highpoint Center for Printmaking in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Highpoint is recognized as one of the leading printmaking centers in the US, offering advanced techniques and artistic development to promising young visual artists. Additionally, Saj worked with World Faze Residency Artists and received private instruction from renowned artist Patrick Quarm, expanding his technical and conceptual skills in the visual arts. An example of work Saj created this summer, titled "10 am on Sunday," illustrates this article.

Each of these students represents the artistic excellence and determination nurtured through the Young Masters program. Their transformative summer training experiences at these prestigious institutions have provided them with new skills and perspectives, preparing them to return to Texas as stronger artists, ready to continue their creative journeys. We can't wait to see what they do for their second summer of the program!

Beware of SAM-UEI Scams

If your organization has a SAM UEI (System of Award Management Unique Entity Identifier) issued by the federal government, TCA wants to remind you this service is **100% FREE**. Scammers are sending out convincing looking



“official” emails offering to help with SAM UEI renewals for a fee. **Renewals are free**, so any mention of a fee should alert you that the email is a scam. TCA recommends marking those emails as junk, blocking those senders, and deleting those emails. Only organizations that apply directly to a federal agency for funding need to renew their SAM UEI.

High Schools: Sign Up Now for Poetry Out Loud

TCA is still signing up high schools and organizations across the state to participate in the [Poetry Out Loud](#) program. Interested educators should fill out [this form](#) soon to sign up and to receive materials to help them conduct the program during the fall semester.



The Poetry Out Loud recitation contest is a national project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition. Each participating high school/organization will hold its competition to determine its winner by December 15, 2024. Their winner will compete at the state competition in February 2025.

At the state level, the winner and runner up receive cash awards and their school libraries receive money to help them buy poetry books. The state winner will represent Texas in the national competition, which has a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools/organizations.

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